

Claim 1 (amended). A self-adhesive article for mechanical protection of painted plastic mounted parts of automobiles, comprising a backing material in film form having an outside and an inner side whose outer side is laminated with a layer of knitted fabric and whose inner side is pressure-sensitively adhesive through application of a self-adhesive composition.

Claim 2 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the backing material in film form has a Young's modulus of less than 300 N/mm^2 .

Claim 3 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the backing material in film form has a thickness of from 10 to $150 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 4 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the backing material in film form is composed of polyolefins, polyolefin blends, polyurethane, flexible PVC or a combination thereof.

Claim 5 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the backing material in film form contains more than 0.15% by weight of a light stabilizer.

Claim 6 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the backing material in film form is perforated, foamed or both.

Claim 7 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the knitted fabric has a basis weight of from 10 to 200 g/m^2 .

Claim 8 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the knitted fabric is composed of polyamide, polyester or polyethylene.

Claim 9 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the backing material is coated with from 10 to 80 g/m², of a self-adhesive composition.

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Claim 10 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the backing material in film form is joined to the knitted fabric by means of a laminating adhesive.

Claim 12 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in claim 10, wherein the laminating adhesive is applied over the complete area or partially.

Claim 13 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the base polymer of the pressure sensitive adhesive is polyisobutylene or polyethylene-vinyl acetate.

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Claim 14 (amended). The self-adhesive article as claimed in Claim 1, wherein an adhesion promoter is situated between backing material in film form and pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 15 (amended). A method for protecting curved areas on the outside of automobiles which comprises applying to said curved areas the self-adhesive article of Claim 1.

A1 Cont. 1/20/01
Claim 16 (amended). A method for the protection of painted plastic automobile bumpers, which comprises applying to said bumpers the self-adhesive article of Claim 1.

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Please add the following:

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Claim 17. The self-adhesive article of Claim 2, wherein said Young's modulus is less than 150 N/mm².

Claim 18. The self-adhesive article of Claim 3, wherein said thickness is from 40-100 µm.

Claim 19. The self-adhesive article of Claim 5, wherein the backing material in fiber form contains more than 0.3% by weight of said light stabilizer.

Claim 20. The self-adhesive article of Claim 7, wherein said basis weight is from 20-80 g/m².

Claim 21. The self-adhesive article of Claim 9, wherein said backing material is coated with from 15-40 g/m² of said self-adhesive composition.

REMARKS

The Preliminary Amendment is being filed to eliminate multiple dependency, and to conform the claims to conventional format.